(a) with improved relations with the Government of Myanmar, whether Government of India is thinking of enlarging bilateral trade relations due to community of interest between Myanmar and our North-Eastern States economy;

(b) if so, how Government proposes to do the same as such trade ties will give fillip to the economy of North-Eastern States; and

(c) what is the present status of bilateral trade, in monetary terms of traditional items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India and Myanmar have a Joint Trade Committee, the first meeting of which was held two years ago. In order to increase the trade of items locally produced in North-Eastern States, an Agreement on Border Trade was signed in 1994, which became operational in 1995.

(c) While the total value of trade with Myanmar was about 5.07 million dollars, the total value of the trade under the Agreement on Border Trade, was Rs.10.76 crores (i.e. about 2.45 million dollars).

Effect of import of used tyres

1758. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported used tyres pose not only risks to safety but also constitute an environmental hazard;

(b) whether Government would consider ban on import of used tyres alongwith a correction of the import duty structure to prevent dumping of tyres; and

(c) whether forty countries, with improved road/highway infrastructure have banned import of used tyres and if so, whether Government would consider the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Quantitative Restrictions are maintained in terms of para 2.6 of Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for protection of environment, protection of human, animal or plant

life or health etc. Import of used tyres is restricted and requires an import licence for its import. Considering the balance of interests of consumer and manufacturer, it has been considered appropriate to regulate import of used tyres through the floor price mechanism.

Economic Co-operation Pact between India and Hungary

1759. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Economic Co-operation Pact has recently been signed between India and Hungary in Budapest;

(b) if so, the term of the agreement;

(c) the exports and imports trade between the two countries during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(d) how far the same are likely to increase as a result of the new agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) An agreement was signed between India and Republic of Hungary in June, 2005. The agreement envisages establishing a Joint Commission to *inter alia* discuss development of bilateral economic relations, identify new possibilities for the further development of future economic cooperation, and suggest improvement of terms for the economic cooperation between enterprises of the two countries. The agreement identified energy sector, electronic and electro technical industry, food processing industry, bio-technology, pharmaceuticals, auto components, electrical equipments and appliances, small and medium size business, science and technology among the areas for long-term cooperation.

(c) and (d) The export from India and the import from Hungary during 2003-04 and 2004-05 were as follows.

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	Export	Import
2003-04	91.87	27.32
2004-05	103.73	31.32